AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims relating to the above-captioned patent application, as amended herein and with the status thereof, are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal battery system, comprising:

a housing;

an electrical energy supplying assembly for supplying electrical power when heated to operating temperatures, wherein said electrical energy supplying assembly is mounted within said housing; and

means for changing said electrical energy supplying assembly from a non-operating condition to an operating condition, wherein said means for changing comprises a wire heating assembly mounted within said housing for heating said electrical energy supply assembly to operating temperatures, wherein said means for changing is devoid of any pyrotechnics.

2. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising said housing containing a first insulation layer mounted about ~~said~~ at least a portion of said electrical energy supplying assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 2, further comprising said wire heating element assembly being mounted within said first insulation layer.

4. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 1, or 2, or 3, further ~~including~~comprising means to adjust the level of heating produced by said wire heating assembly.

5. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said wire heating assembly is made of nickel-chrome wire.

6. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

a second ridged insulation layer mounted within said first insulation layer; and

said ~~wire heating~~ wire heating assembly being mounted about at least a portion of said second ridged insulation layer.

7. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 6, further ~~including~~comprising means coupled to said electrical energy supplying assembly for recharging ~~same~~ said electrical energy supplying assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) A thermal battery system, comprising:

a first housing;

an electrical energy supplying assembly for supplying electrical power when heated to operating temperatures, wherein said electrical energy supplying assembly is mounted within said first housing;

means for changing said electrical energy supplying assembly from a non-operating condition to an operating condition, wherein said means for changing comprises a wire heating assembly mounted about said first housing for heating said electrical energy supply assembly to operating temperatures, wherein said means for changing is devoid of any pyrotechnics; and

a second housing mounted about said first ~~fist~~ housing and said ~~wire heating~~wire heating assembly.

9. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 8, further comprising said first housing containing a first insulation layer mounted about ~~said~~ at least a portion of said electrical energy supplying assembly.

10. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 9, further comprising a second insulation layer mounted between said first and second housings about said wire heating ~~element~~ assembly.

11. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 8, or 9, or 10, further ~~including~~comprising means to adjust the level of heating produced by said wire heating assembly.

12. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said wire heating assembly is made of nickel-chrome wire.

13. (Currently Amended) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 12, further ~~including~~comprising means coupled to said electrical energy supplying assembly for recharging ~~it~~ said electrical energy supplying assembly.

14. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said electrical energy supplying assembly comprises an electrolyte, wherein said electrolyte is non-conductive in said non-operating condition and is conductive in said operating condition.

15. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said electrical energy supplying assembly comprises an electrolyte, wherein said electrolyte is non-conductive in said non-operating condition and is conductive in said operating condition.

16. (New) A thermal battery system, comprising:

an enclosure;

a plurality of battery cells disposed within said enclosure and comprising an electrolyte; and

means for heating said electrolyte from a non-conductive state to a conductive state, wherein said means for heating comprises a heater that is disposed about said plurality of cells within said enclosure, and wherein said means for heating is devoid of any pyrotechnics.

17. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said enclosure is hermetically sealed.

18. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising insulation disposed within said enclosure and disposed about said heater.

19. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 16, further comprising a container disposed within said enclosure and comprising a sidewall, wherein said sidewall separates said plurality of battery cells from said heater.

20. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 16, wherein said plurality of battery cells are disposed in a stack, wherein said heater is disposed about a reference axis along which plurality of battery cells are disposed in said stack.

21. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 14, further comprising means for controlling a heating level of said plurality of battery cells, wherein said means for controlling is interconnected with said means for heating.

22. (New) The thermal battery system as set forth in claim 14, further comprising a battery charger interconnected with said plurality of battery cells.

23. (New) A thermal battery system, comprising:

a first housing;

an electrical energy supplying assembly for supplying electrical power when heated to operating temperatures, wherein said electrical energy supplying assembly is mounted within said first housing;

a wire heating assembly mounted about said first housing for heating said electrical energy supply assembly to operating temperatures; and

a second housing mounted about said first housing and said wire heating assembly, wherein said first housing contains a first insulation layer mounted about at least a portion of said electrical energy supplying assembly.